

SAMPLE APPROVED PROTOCOLS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION OF ACTIVATED CHARCOAL

PROVIDER NAME: _____ **PROVIDER NO. 60** _____

This protocol may be used by properly trained and licensed EMTs for pre-hospital treatment of patients who have ingested some poisonous substances. It is recommended that EMTs-basic obtain a direct voice order from the medical control physician prior to administration of activated charcoal.

- I. Assess the patient
 - A. Perform initial assessment
 - B. Perform focused history and physical exam
 - 1. History of ingestion? What substance? When? How much?
 - 2. Interventions taken?
 - 3. Mental status?
 - C. Assess baseline vital signs and SAMPLE history
 - 1. Estimate patient's weight
 - D. Consider request for Advanced Life Support
 - E. Remove pills, tablets or fragments (with gloved hands) from patient's mouth
 - F. Take all containers, bottles, labels, etc. of poison agents to receiving facility
 - G. Contact medical control, report findings and request authorization for administration of activated charcoal
- II. Administration
 - A. Container must be frequently shaken thoroughly during administration
 - B. Since medication looks like mud, patient may need to be persuaded to drink it (a covered container and a straw may improve patient compliance)
 - C. Instruct patient to drink the prescribed amount
 - 1. If the patient vomits, the dose should be repeated once
 - D. Re-assessment strategies
 - 1. Be prepared for the patient to vomit or further deteriorate
 - 2. Continue to assess patient and be prepared to manage airway difficulties
 - E. Record actions, transport and continue to monitor
 - F. Doses may be repeated with physician authorization
- III. Dosage
 - A. Adults and children: 1 gram activated charcoal/kg of body weight
 - B. Usual adult dose: 25 - 50 grams
 - C. Usual infant/child dose: 12.5 - 25 grams

Approved by: _____

Medical Director (Print)

Medical Director (Signature)

Date